

# BRITAIN CALLS ON ALLIES TO PREPARE TO PAY INTEREST

Reserves Right to Demand Money Due When Payment Is Made to U. S.

## THREE-YEAR CONVENTION WILL NOT BE RENEWED

Lapses May 15, When Interest on War Debt to America Will Begin to Accrue.

By the Associated Press.  
LONDON, April 5.—The British government has addressed a note to the allies declaring that, owing to the fact that Great Britain has to pay the interest on her debts to the United States, she reserves to herself the right to call upon the allies in turn to pay the interest on their war debts to Great Britain.

In this connection it is pointed out that Great Britain is now fully prepared to pay the interest due the United States.

## U. S. FUNDING BILL FIGURES.

French Understand Whole Question Is to Come Up Soon.

By the Associated Press.  
PARIS, April 5.—The understanding in French official circles has been that the whole question of the interrelated debts will come up soon on the initiative of Great Britain as the result of the American funding bill requiring the payment of interest on the debts of the allies to the United States.

As all of these operations are linked together, it is held in French circles that a settlement between any two countries requires a general adjustment.

The British foreign office has understood to have informed the French ambassador in London that the British government will bring the question up, but the French foreign office declared today no formal note on the subject had yet been presented.

## CONVENTION TO EXPIRE.

The French reply to the British note is likely to be that the question is bound up with the debt of the allies, which must be dealt with as a whole, says the Echo de Paris, quoting a well informed source. Piece-meal payment will only hamper the settlement, the reply will say.

The British communication notified France that the three-year convention expiring at an early date would not be renewed.

## LAYING ASIDE \$25,000,000.

By the Associated Press.  
Beyond press reports of Great Britain's preparation to begin the payment of interest upon her five-billion-dollar war debt to this country, the Treasury is as yet without information on the subject.

Great Britain officials said today, has been reported as laying aside \$25,000,000 in her budget for this year to meet interest payments to this country.

## FALLS DUE IN OCTOBER.

In October the first semi-annual interest payment will fall due after the expiration of the three-year period during which, by mutual understanding, interest on the debt was deferred.

On April 15 the deferred interest due from Great Britain, officials said, will amount to approximately \$615,000,000.

It is understood that the subject has been understood, would be the subject of principal negotiations along with the settlement of the debt when the new debt commission begins working out a general liquidation scheme.

## COURT ORDERS INQUIRY IN MOROSCO DIVORCE

Residence Question Raised When He Weds Three Days After Decree—Collusion Suggested.

DETROIT, Mich., April 5.—Investigation of the residence of Oliver Morosco, theatrical producer, who was married at Santa Ana, Calif., Saturday to Miss Selma Paley, Los Angeles actress, but three days after he was granted a decree of divorce here from his first wife, was ordered today by Circuit Judge Harry J. Edwards Pokorney, friend of the court, was instructed to make the investigation in an effort to learn whether collusion existed.

Morosco filed divorce proceedings against his first wife, Anna T. Mitchell, several months ago, using his family name, Oliver Mitchell, and giving Detroit suburban district in his bill of complaint he charged his wife with "nagging" him, casting reflections on his business ability and alleging cruelty and infidelity.

The wife filed a cross bill for divorce, alleging cruelty and infidelity, and naming as correspondent Miss Paley, who now is Mrs. Morosco.

Morosco married his first wife in San Francisco, December 15, 1917. He has a son, Walter, twenty-three years old.

It is understood here that Morosco has settled \$200,000 upon his first wife in lieu of alimony.

Claims 2 1/2 Years' Residence.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 5.—Oliver Morosco, investigation of whose residence was ordered today by the circuit court in Detroit, said today that up to "a month or two ago" he had been a resident of Detroit for two and one-half years. A month or two ago he moved to Los Angeles and bought a home there, he said. He said he knew nothing of any court investigation of the matter.

# BRITAIN ACCEPTS U. S. VIEWS ON OCCUPATION

ARMY AS EQUITABLE

By the Associated Press.  
LONDON, April 5.—Acceptance by the British government of the views of the American views upon the question of the maintenance costs of the American Army of Occupation, as expounded in the recent note of Secretary of State Hughes to the allies, has been informally conveyed to the American government, although a formal note officially confirming the acceptance has not yet been dispatched.

## OPERATORS ACTING ON CALL TO PARLEY

Will Discuss Invitation to Meet Miners at Washington April 10.

## FIVE GROUPS DECIDING ASSOCIATIONS IN AND ADJACENT TO CENTRAL COMPETITIVE FIELD TO HOLD SESSIONS.

By the Associated Press.  
CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 5.—A meeting of the Pittsburgh Vein Operators' Association of the central competitive coal field has been called to meet here this afternoon or tomorrow morning to consider the request of Chairman Nolan of the House labor committee for a meeting of coal operators and miners in Washington April 10 as the first step in an effort to settle the nationwide coal strike.

Michael Gallagher, president of the association, announced this morning.

"Several of the members of the association are not at home and it may be a difficult task to get them together," Gallagher said. "Until the meeting is held, however, it will be no statement issued as to our attitude on the proposed meeting with the miners."

PITTSBURGH, April 5.—Officials of the Pittsburgh Coal Producers' Association expected to attend a tentative session today to decide their answer to the invitation of Chairman Nolan of the House labor committee to Washington to attend the congressional hearing.

Union leaders of the territory have been urged to make a statement in anticipation of the meeting.

President John Brophy and Vice-President James Mark of District No. 2 of the union, left headquarters in Cleveland yesterday en route to Washington to attend the congressional hearing.

Union leaders of the territory have been urged to make a statement in anticipation of the meeting.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., April 5.—A meeting of Indiana operators to consider the request of the House labor committee, asking that mine owners hold a conference with miners, will be called immediately, Phil H. Penna, secretary of the Indiana Bituminous Operators' Association, said here today.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 5.—The scale committees of the three Illinois coal fields, the Illinois Coal Operators' Association, the Illinois Coal Producers' Association, and the Illinois Coal Miners' Association, will meet here today to decide whether they will meet union representatives April 10, as requested by the House labor committee.

The Fifth and Ninth District Association, the Central Illinois Coal Operators' Association and the Illinois Coal Producers' Association will be represented at the conference.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 5.—Southern Ohio coal operators will meet here late today to formulate some answer to the request of the House labor committee to meet with the miners at Washington on April 10.

No comment concerning the invitation will be forthcoming from D. McKinnley, secretary of the Southern Ohio Operators until after the meeting.

## WILL NOT CONFER.

Largest Coal Operating Company in Ohio to Stay From Conference.

TOLEDO, Ohio, April 5.—The Ohio Coaleries Company, largest individual coal operating company in Ohio, will not be represented in the proposed joint conference of miners and operators in Washington on April 10.

TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS.

BECHLEY, W. Va., April 5.—Bombs were exploded in front of the houses of Binny Chickenfeller and James Spade in the mining village of Bechley late last night. State troopers with bloodhounds were hurried to the scene and arrested John Fodor and Andy Honizecz, who denied all knowledge of the crime, but are being held.

Chickenfeller and Spade are miners who continued to work for the McKinnley Coal Company after the explosion ripped off the porch of Chickenfeller's house and destroyed the automobile of Spade's automobile, which was standing in front of his house.

MINERS ENJOY HOLIDAY.

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., April 5.—Suspension of operations in the anthracite coal fields of Luzerne county (Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

## MRS. SWIFT DIES SUDDENLY.

CHICAGO, April 5.—Mrs. Louis F. Swift, 40, died suddenly at her home today following an illness of only a few hours. Her husband, who is a business trip to Honolulu, stepped from the train here without knowing of his wife's death.

## Winners in Star's Essay Contest to Be Announced Tomorrow

The eighty-eight winners of The Star's \$1,000 prize school essay contest on the subject, "The Arms Conference and Its Significance," will be announced in The Evening Star tomorrow.

Plans for the distribution of the prizes also will be announced at the same time.

# NEW PLAYGROUND URGED BY CITIZENS ON NURSERY SITE

Children Have Already Commandeered Old Property on Iowa Avenue.

## D. C. HEADS TO BE ASKED TO TURN OVER PROPERTY

Location Would Benefit Hundreds of Youngsters in Piney Branch and Petworth Sections.

Without a regulated playground in either the Piney Branch or Petworth sections of the city, a number of children living in those parts of the city have commandeered a part of the old District nursery property on Iowa avenue, between Upshur and Allison streets. The land is not used now for any other purpose, but efforts are to be made to have the District Commissioners turn it over to the playgrounds department for play purposes.

Edgar B. Henderson, president of the Piney Branch Citizens' Association, urged this site on the District authorities last year, but the recommendation was not followed, he said.

But Mr. Henderson informed a reporter for The Star today that the association would start immediately a drive to obtain the use of the property for the children to play.

If the District funds were not adequate, not only would funds be collected for providing the necessary equipment, but the association would undertake to provide a director.

With many buildings, operations being carried on at the present time in this section there are few places for the children to play. The streets are very dangerous, as practically all of those running north and south—Georgia avenue, Iowa avenue, 14th and 16th streets—are busy thoroughfares.

Boys Start Base Ball Diamond.

However, with the coming of the base ball season the boys of the section apparently decided to take the matter in their own hands. They just started a base ball diamond on their own account, and early afternoon from the time school let out, the diamond there are two or three games of ball being played there.

Nothing is provided for the little children of the section though, no playground, and the Piney Branch citizens are going to push their request for these appropriations.

James H. Rhodes, director of municipal playgrounds, said that the plot would make a good playground site, and that she would take up with the District Commissioners the question of turning it over to the playground department until such a time it was ready for building purposes.

The land is proposed as a site for a junior high school.

"We don't want our children to play on the streets," said Mr. Henderson today. "The land which was formerly the District nursery would make an ideal playground site and athletic field."

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

## HIGHER TAX PROPOSED TO FORCE CAR MERGER

The House District committee now has before it another tax proposal by the District Commissioners to force a merger of the two street railway companies in the District.

Some weeks ago the Commissioners proposed to put a tax of 50 per cent on the revenues of either line in excess of 6 per cent earnings. The new proposal is to put a tax of 50 per cent on the earnings between 6 and 7 per cent and a 75 per cent tax on the earnings in excess of 7 per cent.

The correspondence sent by the House District committee to the Commissioners of the House District committee carries statistics showing how this tax would operate during the year 1921, according to these statistics, the street railway companies under the tax provisions proposed would have paid \$423,974.

More than that, the conferees on the District appropriation bill expect to have another meeting this afternoon if Representative Ben Johnson of Kentucky, who is the ranking member of the House committee, has charge of the State and Justice appropriation bill now under consideration, and asked that he get away from the House today.

The plan is to lay a sidewalk on the west side between Montague and Van Buren streets and on the east side between Van Buren and Aspen streets.

A recent letter to the Commissioners, Watson B. Miller, commander of the District of Columbia Department of Public Works, called attention to the fact that all of the memorial markers have now been placed and asked that the laying of sidewalks now be taken up.

## HEARING ON SIDEWALKS.

Proposal to Improve 16th Street Up April 15.

A public assessment hearing will be held in the boardroom of the District building at 9 o'clock, April 15, to hear the proposal to lay sidewalks on 16th street north of Kennedy street, where bronze markers have been placed in the parking in memory of the 532 District boys who gave their lives in the war.

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## GUILTY OF WAR TREASON.

Belgian Boasted He Brought About Death of Edith Cavell.

MONS, Belgium, April 5.—Armand Jeannes was condemned to death in the court here last night for treason and espionage against Belgium, and the allies during the war. He had boasted that he was instrumental in bringing about the arrest and execution of the Germans of Edith Cavell, British war nurse, but this charge was not mentioned in the indictment against him.

There was a burst of applause in the courtroom when the sentence was passed, and a great crowd outside cheered Jeannes as he was taken to the gallows.



News Note—A floating mine was sighted Tuesday directly in the pathway for liners between Boston and Europe.

# CRACK IN CEILING, CLASSROOMS SHUT

McKinley Manual Training Rooms Closed While Examination Is Made.

Discovery of a crack in the arch of the chemistry laboratory on the third floor of the McKinley Manual Training School has resulted in the closing of all classrooms directly under the laboratory. The crack, it is believed, was caused by the weakness of the roof.

Workmen from the District repair shop today are reinforcing the beams over the chemistry laboratory. School officials believe that the work will be completed in time for the classrooms to be reopened next week.

The crack appeared around one of the arches under a beam which supports a ventilating fan. The weight of this fan is mainly supported by the beam, which also supports a large amount of concrete.

The psychological effect of the crack, due to the Knickerbocker Theater disaster, Frank C. Daniel, principal of McKinley, said, caused him to order the chemistry laboratory and all rooms directly under it vacated and distributing its weight more evenly.

Subsequently an examination was made, which showed that there was little, if any, danger of the beam falling.

## Not Regarded Dangerous.

Supt. of Schools Frank W. Ballou, Asst. Supt. Stephen E. Kramer and Municipal Architect Albert Harris have made a thorough examination of the roof and beams over the laboratory and are convinced that there is no imminent danger of the beam falling.

Ballou pointed out that the closing of the classrooms was ordered as a precautionary measure. He said that the floors of McKinley Manual Training School are so thin that should the beam fall it would break through the floors and drop into the basement of the building.

According to the superintendent the crack was caused by a condition of the beam which has existed probably since the school was erected. The examination made by the officials, he said, showed that a heavy concrete pillar weighing several tons rested on the beam, which caused it to sag. This sag in the beam, he declared, probably was the reason when the concrete was poured.

"I have been assured by Mr. Harris that there is no danger of the beam falling," said Dr. Ballou. "The classrooms directly under the chemistry laboratory, however, have been ordered closed until repairs are made in the event that the beam should fall."

The work of reinforcing the beam will consist principally of placing additional supports to the concrete pillar and distributing its weight more evenly over an area of the building instead of on the beams and the walls.

The superintendent believes it will take several days or more to complete this work, and the classrooms will remain closed during this time. Students in the closed classrooms have been assigned to other classes pending the completion of the repairs.

The crack, Dr. Ballou said, is large enough at points to insert a lead pencil.

Maj. Cary H. Brown, assistant engineer commissioner, announced this morning that materials for the repairs have been ordered. In the repair work, he said, a small amount of concrete will be added to the weight of the concrete support to the walls instead of resting entirely on the main beam.

## DEATH OF SAILOR AT SEA BLAMED BY ALL HANDS ON PIGEONS ABOARD

It was as if the hand of Death itself had reached out for the man. John Olsen, fifty-six years old, a long-time follower of the sea, and "boss" of the Masuda, told the captain that the presence of the pigeons on board was a bad sign.

"Trouble is sure to follow us," he told the skipper, and the boatmen quickly spread through all the crew. Saturday Spruelli, who was a young seaman, had an attack of acute indigestion, and by Sunday morning he was dead. He was buried at sea and the vessel continued its voyage to Savannah.

As the ship was entering port, Olsen, the "boss," was sent to fix some lines that lay on the deck. While at work he slipped and fell, breaking one leg and two ribs. He is now in the Marine Hospital. Olsen blames all the ill-luck of the Masuda to the carrier pigeons. And there is no sailorman in all the port today who will dispute the point with him.

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# 108 IN TRAFFIC CASES.

Day's Record Includes 30 Alleged Speeders—Other Offenses.

Thirty alleged speeders and seventy-eight alleged violators of other traffic laws were arrested by the police during the twenty-four hours ended at 8 o'clock this morning.

Other arrests mentioned in the daily report of Maj. Daniel Sullivan, superintendent of police, include fifteen for intoxication, five for transporting, four for illegal possession and three for selling liquor. One arrest for driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor, thirteen for house-breaking, one for grand larceny and one for making a handbook also were included in the day's work.

# PLAN 3 INQUIRIES INTO BECK SLAYING

Mrs. Day Describes Tragedy in Home—No Charge Yet Against Rich Oil Man.



LIEUT. COL. PAUL WARD BECK.

By the Associated Press.  
OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., April 5.—Preparations were made today to launch three separate inquiries into the slaying of a prominent Oklahoma Army aviator and assistant commander of Post Field, Fort Sill, Okla., who was killed by Jean P. Day, wealthy oil operator and prominent Oklahoma attorney, in the latter's home here early yesterday morning, when, according to Day, Beck was struggling with Mrs. Day.

A civil investigation by county authorities will determine the charges to be filed against Day.

A military commission of three Army officers, headed by Maj. Thomas B. Lanthier, will come here, according to an announcement at Post Field, and investigate the killing. The commission will determine the charges to be filed against Day.

The receipts for the fiscal year to April 1, 1922, added, amounted to \$248,199,555, which was an increase of \$30,560,123 over the collections for the same period last year.

The President also is known to be of the opinion that the work of the federal department of the interior would be greatly facilitated and otherwise improved by adoption of the plan prepared under the direction of Walter P. Brown, chairman of the joint congressional commission on reorganization.

The plan, which was submitted to the President more than three months ago, has been approved by him and will be returned to the joint congressional committee to make ready for the introduction in Congress of one complete and general reorganization bill.

However, the administration has no intention of awaiting the enactment of the changes deemed necessary to establish the efficiency demanded by the President.

# MORE U. S. BUREAUS TO BE HARDINGIZED

Internal Revenue and Prohibition Officials to Be Plucked Next.

Early reorganization of other departments of the federal government, it is believed by high officials who are close to the President, will follow the recent shake-up made in the bureau of engraving and printing.

"The government departments are going to be Hardingized so as to bring them in complete sympathy with the administration's ideas," was the explanation made today by a high administration official who is one of a group known to be entrusted with bringing about the changes being contemplated.

Confidants of the President have represented him as holding the view that under the Constitution the Chief Executive is charged with the duty of exercising the best judgment in the administration of the office intrusted to him. Therefore he is determined that the government shall be operated along more efficient and businesslike lines. It is known that the matter recently has been discussed freely at cabinet meetings and that the President has discussed his ideas of reorganization with others who are in his confidence.

Close advisers of the President believe that he is empowered to make such changes in official personnel as may be deemed expedient in the interest of the country at large, although it is necessary to establish legislation may be obtained from Congress.

Treasury Next.

Attention at first will be given to the Treasury department, where many changes are known to be contemplated "for the good of the service."

Already some important changes have been made in the customs division and others are to follow.

In most quarters the view is advanced, however, that the reorganization as demanded by the President would proceed regardless of party affiliations until installation of new personnel would eliminate all old methods now considered as bad business and faulty so as to make way for the greater efficiency sought by the administration.

Reorganization is planned, it was said in the internal revenue bureau, and will involve, it was declared, about a dozen important places. As soon as the internal revenue bureau reorganization is finished the next bureau to be given attention is expected to be that of prohibition enforcement. Just how many "key positions" are involved in the bureau is not known, but it is understood they are considerable.

Under Civil Service.

Ninety per cent of the changes so far made in Treasury bureaus, it was asserted, were under the civil service and made in accordance with civil service laws. It was indicated that there was no intention of making a sudden wholesale change in the remaining work of the reorganization of the internal revenue bureau or in the prohibition bureau, but that the work would require some weeks and would be made much along the lines followed in the customs reorganization.

The customs bureau officials in support of their changes declared that the customs receipts for March, 1922, were over \$11,000,000 greater than the preceding March, and reached a total of \$40,285,428, a figure which, they claimed, was larger than those of any single month in the history of the customs.

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# MOTHER ASKS POSTAL AID IN HICCUGHS CASE; CHANCE GETS REMEDY

A local mother whose son has been suffering with hiccoughs for two days without cessation called upon City Postmaster Chance today for a remedy.

The postmaster, used to all sorts of requests, was stumped at first, but soon bethought himself that the remedy which helped A. M. Beckwith, postmaster general, several years ago might help in the present case. The prescription for the medicine was telephoned to the Post Office Department at that time by a local woman, and was sent on to Missouri, where former Gov. Dockery was suffering after many days of incessant hiccoughing.

Postmaster Chance promptly secured the prescription today and sent it by special delivery to the worrying mother.

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# WOOD AMENDMENT JUSTIFIES D.C. VOTE

Nationalization of Elections and 6-Year Presidential Term Also Proposed.

BY WILL P. KENNEDY.

To give the disenfranchised residents of the National Capital equal voice in legislation and national politics with their fellow citizens throughout the states, and to so change the national election system as to get increased efficiency in federal business is the purpose of a constitutional amendment proposed by Representative Will R. Wood of Indiana, on which he has been promised a hearing soon before the House elections committee of which Representative Florian Lampert of Wisconsin is chairman.

Some revolutionary changes are proposed by Representative Wood, who for more than a quarter of a century has been an active force in politics in his home state, Indiana, and for nearly ten years has been one of the national leaders of the republican national organization. The correspondence he is receiving in large quantities shows that his proposals have won a large following in every state in the Union, and that he will have strong support in the House of Representatives.

Representative Wood's new general election plan provides for a six-year term for the President, and that he would be ineligible for re-election. He points out that when the Constitution was originally framed, in the first draft submitted, a revision was made for election of the President for a term of seven years without re-election. This was changed, he says, during deliberations in the convention, and so remained until the closing days of the convention, when it was reconsidered and the present plan adopted.

Advocated Many Years.

The single term of six years has been advocated ever since the adoption of the Constitution. Representative Wood emphasizes, and has been seriously considered by some of the great statesmen of the past, that the President should be elected for a term of seven years without re-election. This was changed, he says, during deliberations in the convention, and so remained until the closing days of the convention, when it was reconsidered and the present plan adopted.

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